

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01075 190810Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0459
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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1075

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC CH US
SUBJ: PEKING CONTINUES CARPING AT NEUTRON BOMB DECISION

REF: PEKING 949

1. WHILE STILL AVOIDING DIRECT COMMENT ON PRESIDENT'S
DECISION TO DEFER NEUTRON BOMB PRODUCTION, PEKING MEDIA
HAVE CONTINUED TO QUOTE ADVERSE WESTERN COMMENT ON THE
DECISION. NCNA APRIL 14 CITED REPORTS THAT NATO OFFICIALS
WERE CRITICIZING THE DECISION AS A PRECEDENT THAT COULD
BE USED BY THE KREMLIN AGAINST NEW WEAPONS IN THE FUTURE.
ADVERSE REACTIONS FROM BRITISH CONSERVATIVE MP IAN
GUILMOUR, WEST GEMAN CSU LEADER STRAUSS, SENATOR NUNN
AND FORMER PRESIDENT FORD WERE ALL CITED. THE SAME
ARTICLE ALSO CARRIED NEGATIVE COMMENT FROM THE TIMES,
L'AUREORE, NEWSWEEK, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, AND THE DETROIT
NEWS, VARIOUSLY DESCRIBING THE DECISION AS "NAIVE,"
"DEVASTATING," AND HANDING BREZHNEV AN "EASY VICTORY."

2. A SIMILAR PIECE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY APRIL 18 CITES
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EDITORIALS OR ARTICLES FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE
CHICAGO TRIBUNE, DIE WELT AND THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.
AGAIN THE COMMON THEME IS THAT THE US MOVE, RATHER
THAN ENCOURAGING SOVIET RESTRAINT, IS LIKELY ONLY
TO WHET MOSCOW'S APPETITE.

3. NCNA AND THE PEOPLE'S DAILY HAVE ALSO CARRIED

A SUMMARY OF THE READER'S DIGEST ARTICLE BY
REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES WILSON, IN WHICH HE CHARGES THAT
US SALT NEGOTIATORS ARE BARGAINING AWAY AMERICAN
MILITARY STRENGTH IN AN "UNFAIR, ONE-SIDED NUMBERS GAME."

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT PRC LEADERS CONTINUE
TO FEEL THAT THIS TYPE OF "CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING"
REGARDING THE SOVIET THREAT TO THE WEST AND THE
SUPPOSED INADEQUACY OF THE AMERICAN RESPONSE IS IN
THEIR INTEREST, EVEN THOUGH CHINESE PROPAGANDA ITSELF TENDS TO
CREATE DOUBTS ABOUT THE STRENGTH AND RESOLVE OF THE WEST.
WOODCOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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